HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE I hereby certify that this correspondence is being plication of: deposited with the United States Postal Service as Before the Examiner first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Thai Ba Trieu Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, John Frederick Parker et al. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 3, 2004 Serial No. 09/977,804 (Date of Deposit) Group Art Unit 3748 John H. Allie Name of Registered Representative Filed October 15, 2001 Our Ref.: 27049-16 **TURBINE** November 3, 2004 Date of Signature

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2004, please consider the following. A request for an extension of time to November 3, 2004 is enclosed herewith, and a Credit Card Payment Form for the requisite fee is also included herewith. Please provide any additional extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.